102. A GENUINE

ACCOUNT

Of the Remarkable

Life and *Tranſactions*

OF

John Rice, Broker, for Forgery.

Paul Lewis, a Highwayman:

And *Hannah Dagoe*, for ſtealing Goods out of a Dwelling-Houſe.

ALSO, THEIR

Behaviour, *Confeſſion*, and *Dying Words*,

(Who were Executed at *Tyburn* on *Wedneſday* the 4th of *May*, 1763.)

Written by a Gentleman who attended them before their Execution.

LONDON:

Printed for T. TRUEMAN, 1763.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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Life and *Tranſactions*, &c.

MR. Rice; the Broker's indictment on which he was tried at the Old Bailey ſelected and ſet forth one fact out of many of the ſame kind of forgeries, with which the priſoner ſtood chargeable, to the amount of nine times the ſum of 5000l. therein laid. The proof was made on the evidence of ſeveral officers of the South-ſea houſe, of Mrs. Pierce the proprietor of the ſtock, and the two ſubſcribing witneſſes, T. Wynne, and E. Jones, who being waiters at Sams's coffee-houſe, frequented by Mr. Rice, were ignorantly drawn in, at his requeſt, to ſign this letter of attorney, without knowing the purport or conſequences of it. A warning, which the court gave them on this occaſion, cannot be too publicly known; to be careful to know the contents of what you are witneſſing, becauſe it is no indifferent or innocent act to ſet a name as a witneſs: At leaſt it muſt be juſt and neceſſary to ſee the very perſon ſign, ſeal, and deliver what you witneſs to be ſo done in your preſence. —— The ſeveral ſteps of this whole tranſaction were proved, that Mr. Rice gave in a memorandum in writing to Mr. Fenouilhet, the proper officer in the South-ſea ſtock and

annuity-office, to make out a letter of attorney for Mrs. Ann Pierce, widow of Henry Pierce, to ſell the ſaid ſum of 5000l. which letter was produced in court, dated Nov. 26, that Mr. Rice was the attorney named therein; did act and transfer 500l. ſtock to Mr. Brookshank upon it, on the 10th of November following; that three other letters of attorney were made out to Mr. Rice in the ſame name and manner, on which he ſold and transferred the ſum of 19.900l. Mrs. Pierce being examined on oath in relation to theſe letters of attorney, on the 27th of December laſt, four days after Mr. Rice had fled, ſhe declared her name to each of them was forged; and that ſhe never received any conſideration or value for that large ſum, which probably was her whole eſtate. In this caſe, the company, being legally adviſed, made good her whole ſtock: by which they ſuſtained the loſs, and became proſecutors. The indictment was ſo clearly proved, not only to the ſatisfaction of the court and jury, but to the conviction of the priſoner, that he attempted no denial or defence of the fact; but only pleaded in allevation, his ſteadineſs to his religion againſt the temptation offered him at Cambray, to protect him, if he would change it. As this may be ſeemed ſomewhat ſingular in a man of his profeſſion, and practice, there can be no doubt but his behaviour, in this article, has been, by his brethren in the alley, freely canvaſſed, and ſufficiently ſneered at, having other cauſes more probable, in their judgment, to aſſign for it, than the ſpirit of martyrdom.

Having an opportunity to viſit Mr. Rice a few weeks before his trial, and before any other clergyman was admitted to him on this account, it was with no little concern and emotion I ſaw him totter as if ready to fall when he entered the room, and bowed. His appearance of diſtreſs, with dejected mien, and low ſpirits, ſcarce ſupporting his fallen lot, could not fail to affect a humane heart with deep compaſſion: yet a ſprightlineſs ſeemed now and then to glance thro' this cloud of affliction which ſurrounded him.——A young man, not much exceeding thirty years, ſcarce below that middle ſize which has the freeſt and moſt equal flow of ſpirits: his complexion naturally fair, now ſomewhat ſallowed with grief; his hair gathered behind in a bag

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an high-nut brown colour inclining to ſandy. A man, ſo loudly trumpeted by fame, could not fail to attract my attention; for could his well made perſon and neat dreſs give a vivacity to his air in this fallen condition, which he could not avoid expreſſing in every look, and voice, and geſture.

We quickly fell into ſome ſerious converſation adapted to his circumſtances, and which chiefly turned on the riſe and progreſs of his troubles, interſperſed with ſome proper reflections and admonitions, which he ſeemed to receive with an humble thankfulneſs. And as he had been open and candid in his ſeveral examinations before magiſtracy, he preſerved the ſame character in private converſation, declaring and confirming the ſubſtance of what had paſſed and been reported on good authority from thoſe ſeveral examinations. On his return from the third of which, he fell down in a fainting fit, before he came to the door of the Poultry Counter.

He imputed the beginning of his misfortunes to that ſpirit of gaming, or buying ſtock for time in Exchange alley, againſt which no laws are yet found to be a barrier; no examples of ruin a ſufficient warning. He imputed his firſt ſhock i the alley, to a commiſſion he had from Col. ——, ſecretary to a foreign ambaſſador. The differences paid by him on that occaſion amounting to 2000l. were never made good to him by his principal. This, with other like caſes, ſet him upon thoſe devices to ſupport his credit in the alley, to which he at laſt fell a victim; devices, which by repeated eaſy practice, ſecured by preſent ſecrecy, and the fallacious hope of reſtitution, on a reverſe of fortune in his favour, he began to forget to be fraught with death. For when he had alienated any ſtock for which he was employed as agent or broker, he kept punctually to paying the intereſt when due; and I am well aſſured he has replaced the principal alſo, in ſome ſtock without being ſuſpected; and had he not been unexpectedly ſurprized with the news of Mrs. Pierce coming from Yorkſhire, ſoon after the fatal experiment for which he was convicted, he might have gone on as yet undiſcovered, in hopes, at leaſt, however vain, of recovering his loſſes and preventing his fate.

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One objection indeed riſes ſtrong againſt this hope being re and well-grounded, as being utterly inconſiſtent with his un mited expenſiveneſs; quitting the ſafe courſe of middle life which he owned to me he could fairly make 1000l. a year; a launching into high life, which muſt demand five, or ten tim that income yearly; a town houſe in a genteel ſtreet; a countr houſe at Finchley, each furniſhed more than elegantly, adorn in high taſte, a coach, chariot, poſt chaiſe, with ſeveral pairs fine horſes for harneſs, beſides ſaddle-horſes, ſervants ſuitable, negro boy, &c.

Mr. Rice ſaid, that an overture was made to him from t biſhop of Cambray, to embrace their faith, and confirm to the religion; but that he rejected it with reſolution, ſaying, would rather loſe his ears or his head; that he had declared th ſame things when examined before my Lord Mayor and th gentlemen of the injured companies.

When brought to trial, he was diſtinguiſhed with a place a the inner bar; he appeared languid, pale, and ſo trembling, tha he could ſcarce hold up his hand to be arraigned. When th evidence againſt him was gone through, being aſked what h had to ſay in his defence, he deſired to call witneſſes to his cha racter. It was intimated to him from the bench, that this coul avail him nothing; but rather turn againſt him ——However hi witneſſes were heard; and they gave him a character, whic ſeveral, whom I have heard ſpeak of him, agree to be juſt: tha before this affair, nothing was known againſt him, having acte as a man of ſtrict honour and integrity.

'Tis affirmed of Mr. Rice, that before he eloped (Decembe 23d laſt) he ſent for his tradeſmen's bills, and paid all that wer brought in.

After he was found guilty, he looked up to the bench with a moſt melting, piteous face, and many tears, imploring mercy and the interceſſion of the court, with his Majeſty, to ſpare hi life. He was anſwered with words of compaſſion for his family, his wife and himſelf; but at the ſame time warned not to flatter himſelf with vain hopes of that mercy which was not to be expected. *For conſidering your crime, and its conſequences, in a nation*

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where there is ſo much paper credit, I muſt tell you (ſaid the Lord Chief Juſtice) I think myſelf bound in duty and conſcience, to acquaint his Majeſty, you are no object of his mercy; adding, that all public companies, concerned in paper credit, ſhould take caution from this inſtance, as no doubt they will, to examine ſtrictly all letters of attorney, and papers wherein there can be any ſuſpicion of fraud.

When brought to the bar to receive ſentence, little more was directed to him after what had been ſaid by Lord M——.

Mr. Rice, was born in Spital-ſquare, educated at a private academy in that neighbourhood, and lived there till of late, when he ſet up his equipage. His father was a man of fair character, and moderate fortune, was an upper clerk in the South-ſea houſe, and did buſineſs as a broker in Change-alley: his ſucceſs in the latter enabled him to quit the former; and encouraged him to initiate his ſon, when yet a ſtripling, in the ſame buſineſs; to a conſiderable branch of which he introduced him; and dying about eight or nine years ago, left him a handſome property in the funds, by the intereſt of which, with his regular and fair tranſactions as a broker, he had an income of 12 or 1500l. a year. But inſtead of enjoying this with ſafety and prudence, he would venture for more, by ſporting, gaming (as it is called) in the alley; ſo that he told me, his loſſes in the whole, by paying debts of honour, in that way, amounted to 60,000l. Falſe honour indeed! added he; as it was for his employers as well as himſelf. He ſaid, the commiſſion of bankruptcy taken out againſt him, by his attorney, after he fled, was not by his order; and that he took not above the ſum of 3 or 400l. abroad with him; that Mrs. R—— not knowing his caſe, but in general that ſomething was amiſs, was hurried after him with the bulk of what he had left in bank-notes; that ſhe got to the coaſt of Holland; but the hard froſt, with the ice on that coaſt, ſetting in, obliged the captain to cut his cable and run, leaving his anchor; he was driven back to Harwich; from whence ſhe returned to London, fearing and ſuſpecting no ill conſequence; but found herſelf quickly taken into cuſtody, ſeized and examined; having notes to the value of 4700l. found, as it is ſaid, conceal-

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ed about her stays: this she was obliged to surrender, which with the produce of his effects sold he apprehended would be applied to the account of the commission of bankruptcy.

Some proper questions were put to him, before he was admitted to the holy communion, concerning his preparation; first, as an humble penitent in general; and 2dly, as a criminal. The first being well known points, I need not repeat. The second was whether he had it in his power to make any more restitution or satisfaction than he had yet done to the injured? To this he answered in the negative. Whether he had any accomplice? This he also denied, and received the blessed sacrament on the truth of these assertions.

By this and other numberless like instances, in most if not all cases of dying criminals, every reasonable and impartial person will see it is a real part of justice due to the public and the injured; it is a duty, and indispensable duty annexed to the office of Ordinary in whomsoever it is lodged, to persuade criminals to confess the several forgeries, robberies, thefts, burglaries, and other injuries done: On whom? when? where? and with what accomplices? without being exposed to be accused and abused by an obdurate criminal, as being impertinently curious and officious to collect materials only to fill up his account. What the public and injured expect this most disagreeable and irksome duty from him (of bringing notorious offenders to confess), appears from the several letters, messages, or requests, delivered to the Ordinary on this subject before each execution.

One remark more concerning Mr. Rice, and I have done: that he never refused to converse with me in private; or seemed to be offended at any question I asked, or any instructions I gave him, but received all with gentle meekness, serious attention and humble thankfulness; and I must add, was often greatly shocked at the contrary behaviour of his fellow convict: but let that to be spoken of.

Mr. Rice had also another clergyman, his former acquaintance, to visit him as oft as they chose, with my knowledge and approbation; with whom when I consulted on his case, not the least dispute or difference arose among us.

Paul Lewis was indicted for that he with a certain offenſive weapon, called a piſtol, which he had and held in his right hand, on John Cook willingly and felonouſly made an aſſault, with an intent the money of the ſaid John to ſteal, againſt the form of the ſtatute, &c. March 12, to which he pleaded *guilty*.

This indictment was tried late in the evening; and by his pleading guilty, it was apprehended by the public, that he hoped to get off with tranſportation only: which was far from giving ſatisfaction, as there was a general reſentment and indignation againſt him for the baſe perfidy and foul ingratitude he betrayed in the fact, for which next day he was a ſecond time indicted, for being an ill deſigned and diſorderly perſon, of a wicked mind and diſpoſition, not regarding the laws and ſtatutes of this realm, nor pains or penalties that ſhould fall thereon; that he on the 12th of March, with a piſtol, value five ſhillings, loaded with gun powder and a leaden bullet which he had and held in his right hand, did wilfully, felonouſly, unlawfully, and knowingly, aſſault Joſeph Brown, he being on the King's highway, againſt the peace of our ſovereign Lord the King, &c.

The circumſtances of this affair were ſo odious in themſelves, ſo diſgraceful even to the character of an highwayman, that the offender perſiſted to deny them, and charge the accuſers with perjury, atheiſm, &c. ſtill murdering their characters, when he miſſed their perſons. It appears Lewis had an accomplice with him on the road near Wilſden, both were mounted, maſked, and armed with piſtols. They had juſt robbed a gentleman and a lady in a chariot, about five or ſix in the evening; quickly after they attacked John Cook, preſented a piſtol and demanded his money; he offered them his little money, they demanded more; on this diſpute farmer Brown appeared and was forthwith attacked by Lewis, who becauſe he would not ſtop at his command, fired on him very cloſe to his ſide; he fell, though not wounded, by the ſtartling of his horſe; but fell on his feet; at that inſtant farmer Pope coming up, took Lewis priſoner. Brown went and took hold of him, clapt his knee on his breaſt, and bid Mr. Pope purſue his comrade; he got on his horſe and purſued three quarters of a mile, till the fleer obſerving he came near, quitted

his horſe, and fled into the fields. Mean time Paul begged f
mercy, urging that he was a gentleman bred, and would go wi
where ever he deſired; Mr. B. unwarily let him up witho
ſearching him for arms. Scarce was he got up, when he cla
another piſtol to his breaſt, with a d——n you, I'll ſhoot ye
dead; the piſtol he knocked downwards, and as it pointed to h
thigh, Lewis ſnapt it, and it only flaſhed in the pan. His hee
were immediately kicked up, he was rifled of his piſtols, te
bullets and a mould. The piſtol he ſnapt was charged with
bullet.——The evidence of theſe three witneſſes agreed ſo wel
that there can be no doubt of the truth of the facts. Nor coul
the priſoner in his defence deny it; he only prevaricated, ſaying
he only fired at farmer Cook's horſe, but had no intention to tak
the man's life; but not a word againſt Brown's evidence.

This criminal is publicly known to have been a priſoner i
Newgate twice before for a conſiderable time; being moved th
firſt time to be tried at Kingſton, and acquitted by means not t
his credit. Soon after he met the ordinary, politely thank
me for the good inſtruction given him while in our priſon, pro
miſing to live and act agreeable to it. Having congratulate
him on his deliverance, I hinted to him he would do well to g
abroad, and break off his connections here, as the only way t
prevent further ill conſequences; he thanked me, but ſaid he ha
got a place of about a rool. a year in the Cuſtom-houſe, whic
would ſupport him. We parted. I ſaw no more of him till he
was again apprehended and examined before Sir John Fielding
under a charge of ſeveral robberies, on which occaſion he behaved
with inſolence, and even menaces to the juſtice. On his trial at
the Old Baily, the enſuing ſeſſions, for robbing Mary Brook, in
the Worceſter ſtage, near Shepherd's-buſh, he was again acquitted
for want of full and poſitive evidence to the perſon. His friends
however had him detained in Newgate as a debtor, till within a
fortnight of his being a third time taken in the fact, in the man-
ner before deſcribed.

Although the anonymous collector of the news paper para-
graphs concerning Rice and Lewis, re-publiſhed, under the title
of *A true, genuine, and authentic Account, &c.* has cloſely fol-

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lowed all their miſtakes, yet he muſt be allowed the honour of one invention, that Paul Lewis was one of the ten children of a worthy clergyman in Ireland; we will venture to reſtore the honour of his birth to this land at preſent ſo prolific of ſuch heroes, and fix his birth place at Horſmanteux in Suſſex. His parentage and education were ſuch as would have given him credit and advantage, had he not diſgraced and diſappointed them.

About the age of ſix, he had intereſt enough to be placed in a good foundation ſchool, where being received into the firſt form, a young gentleman in the higheſt then went off to the univerſity, continued there three or four years to take his firſt degree of B. A and returning to be uſher to the ſame ſchool, found Paul Lewis ſtill in the firſt form where he had left him; ſuch was his incapacity, ſo inpenetrable his head to the rudiments of learning — inſomuch, that it is ſaid, he never could ſpell, or write even his own language grammatically. For this reaſon among others, when his period of ſeven years on the foundation was expired, inſtead of being ſent to the univerſity, his father took him home, where he with ſome of his brothers being grown up into gay, idle young fellows, who muſt have money to ſpend, became ſuſpected to the neighbouring gentlemen. This put them upon providing for them at a diſtance. Paul was made a Matroſs at Woolwich by the intereſt of Sir C. B—p. As ſprightly dunces often turn out fops and beauxs, ſo Paul, by vying with his ſuperior officers in dreſs, ſoon got deep in his taylor's books, to the tune of 150l. which obliged him to decamp and quit this genteel ſupport. We hear of him next in the marine or ſea ſervice, where ſeveral of his early feats of courage and conduct are boaſted of, and ſome of more ſtratagem than honour. Such as his collecting three guineas a head from his brother officers in a man of war, to lay in freſh ſtores for a Weſt-India voyage, going a ſhore to buy them; and forgetting to return to the ſhip.

Courage however of ſome kind, it is agreed, he had, which he would exert in any ſtation. When aſhore, and at leiſure from duty, he would raiſe contributions on the road: — A practice which he muſt have begun (by his own confeſſion) ſo early as at the age of 20. —— Whether he took occaſion to commit the firſt

fact of this kind from resentment on seeing a younger officer of superior interest, promoted over his head, as some say, or whether from necessity, brought on by extravagance urged by his audacious and depraved disposition, is uncertain. This however is well known, that his temper and behaviour at school were such, and so incorrigible, that many of his school-fellows proverbially foretold his fate.

It appears from some of his latest ranting boasts, a few days before he suffered, that he valued himself much for well laid schemes, to rob with safety and impunity. Of this kind was the following fact: Being recommended, above a year ago, to the lords of the admiralty for preferment; while he waited about town, he settled himself at the Bull ale-house in the Borough, from before dinner till midnight; he had bespoke a horse to be ready for him at 9 in the evening at the Spur-Inn, in the same neighbourhood. Between 8 and 9 he said to the people of the Bull, What have you got for supper? Whatever it was, he pretended not to like it, but would step to his own lodging and get somewhat he liked better. In this interval he rid out, robbed Sir T. H—— y and son, in their coach going to Clapham, between Newington and Vauxhall, of cash and Bank-notes, to a considerable value; and quickly returned to the Bull. When tried for this fact, the people of that house swore he had been there on that day for 12 hours, one half hour excepted, in which the jury judging it next to impossible he could commit the robbery, acquitted him, tho' sworn to, both by the gentlemen and their servants. Soon after he was met by a friend and companion, who was glad to see him at large, and asked him, which side of the evidence was forsworn? he answered, neither: But *he had got the bustle* (meaning the cash) *in his pocket*.

When I heard of my old acquaintance, Lewis, being once more in custody at New Prison; that there was strong evidence against him, and he had confessed enough before the justice to determine his fate; that he was dejected and low spirited; I could not forbear to pay him a friendly visit, *ex officio*, thinking he would receive it kindly. He was just returned from his examination before Sir J. F. &c. I found I had *caught a tartar*; I did

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not perceive at first that he had taken a glass to enable him to confront the justices, or wash down his examination. I said to him, All Lewis! I am sorry to meet you here; had you taken my advice, you had escaped this. He was surrounded by a croud of curious spectators; and he was inclined to shew his talent of prophane ribaldry before them; *You, replied he, murder men twice: I have a very bad opinion of you, and think you no better than a Papist. You teach false doctrine, &c.* Then, to palliate all, he said, *You see I am mad*; behaving himself in a manner which seemed to confirm it; to the diversion of the spectators. He added, *I am no Athiest, I am a Christian every inch of me*: little thinking, or caring what a scandal he brought on that venerable name; and that an Athiest in practice is scarce to be distinguished from one in profession; but that he is the more inconsistent monster of the two. This was no time or place to refute him, he was only answered, *'tis to be feared, all this will not save or excuse you!* Finding my visit misunderstood, and ill received, and that it was unseasonable to put a proper book into his hands, which I had carried with me for him; consisting of serious advice, and devotions fitted to his case: another opportunity was taken to send it to him; when it might be hoped he had recovered, and put on, the man at least, if not the penitent christian.

When he was moved to Newgate to take his trial, he now and then came up to the latter part of divine service, strutting and rattling his irons, as if proud of the cause in which he wore them. His voice was now and then exalted in *a responſe*, or an *amen*, in a *loud* and *ludicrous tone*; a practice in which he took a pride among the prisoners in his former confinements. And that he was proud of his fetters and chains, appeared an undoubted truth in the judgment of his keeper, who being affronted by him, generously said, *You r —— I. I'll not treat you as you deserve, because you are my prisoner; but I have a mind to take off your irons, and I think I can't mortify you more*

As he affected to be a real M'Heath, 'tis said he boasted to a visitor that he could, like that hero, buy off the Old Baily; and merrily sang:

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If gold from law can take out the ſting, &c. as in the Beggar's Opera.

Theſe incidents happened before his trial. When being convicted he was brought to the bar to receive ſentence, he was reminded, that it was but a ſhort time ſince he was tried at the ſame bar before, that by his late facts he had now filled up the meaſure of his iniquity; and as his moments of life muſt now be very few, he was warned ſo to employ them as to prepare for his change; not to aggravate the reproach of his family, nor contribute yet more to bring down the grey hairs of a worthy father with ſorrow to the grave.

This ſeems to have been intended as an admonition to him againſt the deſperate crime of ſuicide, which the bench had an intimation, he had declared with horrid imprecations to perpetrate if convicted.

When viſited after conviction, they were put in mind that they had many good opportunities of prayer and inſtruction before this, but never in the ſame ſad criſis, under the ſure ſentence of a ſpeedy execution; it was hoped therefore that our preſent labours would make a deeper impreſſion, and to better effect than ever. A proper and ſolemn exhortation was added, ſhewing them their true ſtate, their real and alarming danger, and the only way to eſcape it. Proper portions of ſcripture were daily choſen, read, and applied to them Lewis, in common with the reſt, ſeemed for the preſent heartily affected; but he began at the wrong end firſt; with all his evil habits and prejudices about him, he talked of receiving the ſacrament, at a near day of his own naming, without notice of preparation; and that two clergymen of his acquaintance, would viſit him in order to adminiſter to him I let him know I approved of his good attention, when ripe for it, and that I ſhould be glad of any aſſiſtance he could find moſt agreeable to him, but at the ſame time gently cautioned him againſt preſuming too ſuddenly on that great attainment, the effect of a true and hearty repentance; wiſhed him to conſider his repeated provocations, after many warnings and chaſtiſements ſent to him in vain; that he had now pulled down ſudden and early ruin on his own head. He then turned his firſt propoſal

a deſire, that I myſelf would adminiſter the ſacrament to
n on Thurſday next. He was anſwered, that I ſhould be glad
have no objection, and to find by his behaviour, that he was
y prepared. He took this opportunity to apologize for his
de language to me, when viſited at New-Priſon, ſaying, He
s then in liquor, otherwiſe it could not be ſuppoſed that he
ing a clergyman's ſon, would abuſe a clergyman. Then, re-
ied I, you ſhall hear no more of it: nor he never ſhould, if he
d not renewed his ill-treatment and threats with greater violence
an ever, at ſeveral times after this. The truth of it is, he
ten hung out falſe colours, and talked in quite contrary cha-
cters, of which I had a glaring proof next morning, Sunday,
pril 17, when I was told by the turnkey, that *the captain* (as
e ſtiled him) had been very unruly and outrageous the night be-
re; about nine, when he went to lock him up and put out his
andle, he curſed and ſwore moſt deſperately that he would put an
nd to his own life, unleſs they allowed him ſome light for the
hole night; or, if he could not by any means deſtroy himſelf,
e would roar aloud all night, and alarm the neighbourhood
ith the cry of *fire* and *murder*. The keeper being acquainted
ith this, ordered, that if he perſiſted, he ſhould be hand-cuffed
d chained down. By this threat he learned ſubmiſſion, and
ept ſilence. This he never could be brought to, had any
eighbouring officious keepers of other priſons permiſſion and
ower allowed them to come into the priſon, and call the keeper
o an account for his conduct, and encourage his priſoner in his
iſorderly behaviour againſt him.

However, this behaviour of Lewis in the cells, was of a
iece with what was ſaid of him in New-Priſon, that he ſwore
e deſtroy himſelf if convicted; and we ſhall find the purpoſe, or
hreat at leaſt, fully confirmed, the laſt morning of his life.

When the priſoners were viſited next day, April 18, a worthy
ector of the city came up to us to prayers, who now and then,
n particular caſes, favours the priſoners with a viſit; and with
alm, judicious, valuable, and by me ever valued, advice and
ſſiſtance. Such *benevolent*, and *truly beneficent* viſits to priſons
e has long delighted to practiſe; not to aggravate, but to allevi-

ate,

ate, or ſupply the labours of the miniſter, and the ſufferings and horrors of guilt; not to *embarraſs*, and *increaſe the difficulties*, but with the tendereſt ſentiment of humane and chriſtian charity to extricate us. May God, in his goodneſs, ſend more ſuch viſitors and benefactors to our priſons!

Prayers being ended, and the uſual inſtructions given, this gentleman ſpent ſome time with Mr. Rice, Lewis, and each of the other priſoners. The firſt, with ſome other priſoners, he judged to be in a penitent hopeful way. At the ſame time information was given us by a ſenſible and ſerious man, who had viſited Lewis at New Priſon, that he was a profane ſcoffer at the ſcriptures, and in particular of ſeveral parts and characters contained in them: viz. the writings and characters of *Moſes*, of *David*, and others: which charges being now mentioned to him, he confirmed with his own mouth, repeating and retailing many ſtale, exploded, and often refuted objections againſt thoſe well eſtabliſhed writings and characters, which were all anſwered to him upon his own principles, for he ſtill pretended to acknowledge the divine authority of Jeſus Chriſt. The moſt important, uſeful, and practical truths, are ever firmly connected with a tie not to be diſſolved. So it is in every ſcience; *mathematics*, *phyſics*, and above all, in *morality* and *theology*. We know that *Jeſus Chriſt* himſelf hath eſtabliſhed the writings of *Moſes*, *the Pſalms*, and *the prophets*; all of whom wrote *concerning him*. Theſe are *the ſcriptures* he commanded men *to ſearch*; becauſe in them *we think we have eternal life*, as far as *they teſtify of him*. And if *we believe not Moſes and the phophets*, *neither ſhould we be perſuaded* though *one roſe from the dead*. Theſe things were repeated to Lewis; but he too little regarded them. His capacity was better to plan a robbery: which, if well applied, might have made him a general or an admiral.

Lewis owned he had read *the Free Enquirer*, that *ſyſtem* of author; but condemned him as an *ignorant preſuming blaſphemer* for attempting what he was not able to make out. It ſeems he had diſappointed poor Lewis in the expected eaſe and ſatisfaction he wanted, in his guilt and infidelity. Notwithſtanding all this, one of Lewis's panegyriſts, in the Gazetteer of May the 5th, has

has celebrated him as *a perſon of good natural parts, who had a juſt ſenſe of the chriſtian religion, and diſcerned clearly and ſenſibly concerning the ſcriptures, &c.* Juſt as *clearly* and *ſenſibly*, as this panegyriſt conceives and writes of poor Paul Lewis, when he ſays, *That his motive (for ſuicide, for which he concealed a penknife about him) was to prevent the diſgrace of his family, by an ignominious death.*" Whereas the court, every right thinking man, and the laws, have a contrary ſenſe of it; that it muſt aggravate the diſgrace of his death to his family, no leſs than his own guilt, and would have treated his remains (*not as thoſe officers, ſome of diſtinction did, by whom he was in general reſpected and ſhewed their reſpect to him as he paſſed along*) but by driving a ſtake through his carcaſs in a croſs road. This is a rare ſalvo againſt an ignominious death and the diſgrace of his family! to fear man and not God; mements worldly ſhame more than eternal judgment. This *clear* and *ſenſible* writer ſeems to be as cloſely connected with the penman of Lewis's letter to Mr. Recorder, publiſhed in the ſame news paper, as Lewis's crimes were *with a degree of madneſs.*

But to ſilence all his cavils, two plain points of belief and practice were propoſed to him. 1ſt, That humiliation and repentance were his part and duty in his preſent circumſtances. 2d, That this and all he can do, will not prevail with God for mercy, but by the merits and blood of Jeſus Chriſt; laying aſide all fooliſh and ill grounded objections of evil-minded men againſt the word of God. To this, and much more, he anſwered, that he muſt be guided by his own conſcience But can a ſeared conſcience and obdurate ſpirit be a good guide?

He acknowledged, at the ſame time, the great propriety of the portions of ſcripture this day read and applied to them, viz. Levit. 26. and St. Luke 15. He went one ſtep farther with us this day; expreſs'd his abhorrence of ſuicide, (of which, he was conſcious, he ſtood juſtly ſuſpected, from the evidence of his own mouth) ſaying in a contrary ſtrain, of ture faith and patience, *What, don't I know that my my Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, who was perfectly innocent, ſuffered and died for me? and how can I refuſe to follow his example?* And he gave me an inſtance of rejecting

an opportunity, and reſiſting a temptation of this kind; when a near relation of his (*as he ſaid*) brought him a vial of liquid laudanum to take, he daſhed it againſt the ground and broke it. When I repeated this fact to the keeper quickly after, as I thought it my duty to do, in order to guard him from ſuch viſitors, he only ſaid, *he did not believe him*. Lewis was at this day in ſo complying a temper, that without any application or ſollicitation of mine directly or indirectly, he promiſed me of his own accord he would write a full and true account of his own life, deſiring I would publiſh it as he wrote it.

By ſuch prudent and temperate viſits and applications to this raſh, giddy youth, as we were this day bleſſed with, it is very probable from the effects, he would have daily become more tractable, pliant and penitent, till he ſhould be gently led on to the Lord's table, with patience and ſatisfaction, with hope and comfort to himſelf and his miniſter, as many great criminals have been before him, (bleſſed be God!) and it is hoped, may be again.

When viſited next day he ſtill gave me an encouraging account of himſelf, that he had read over *the companion to the altar* which I had put into his hands a day or two before, when the uſual notice for adminiſtration of the ſacrament was given. And the ſubject was afterwards daily opened and explained to them.

The day following he told me he reads *Sherlock upon death*, commended him as an excellent writer and very proper for him.

Having a little private converſation with him, to ſet him right in ſome parts of his behaviour and way of thinking, he now varied his promiſe in a matter ever very indifferent to me with regard to myſelf, except as a proof of repentance in the criminal, that he would give a copy of his own account of himſelf to another clergyman, (whom doubtleſs he had ſeen in his cell) as well as to me; to which I anſwered, I hoped it would be ſuch as would deter others from following his ſteps, and not allure them. He anſwered in theſe ever memorable words, *If to tell them, that after the firſt fact he committed, he was ever in fear; and under apprehenſions that every man he met, nay every buſh he ſaw, was a* thief-

a thief-taker —— *that ſhould be the encouragement he would give them; aſſuring them that ſince he fell into this way*, in which he had long reigned, *he never could be eaſy.*

How powerful is truth! how forcible are right words! even from a man experienced in ſin, who has *felt the truth* of them. Even ſcoffers while they ſcorn and annull, do ſtrongly confirm God's holy word.——*The wicked flee when no man purſueth.* &c. *a ſound of fears is ever in his ears. There is no peace to the wicked.*

I was ſtill at a loſs to gueſs what time Lewis meant by *his long reign* in that courſe, as I knew he had ſeveral, not ſhort, interregnums in his reign, while confined; but as I was determined to ask him no curious queſtions ſince his firſt inſult and abuſe, ſay any thing but what I thought neceſſary for his ſalvation, I forbore, till of himſelf he explained it on the morning he ſuffered.

Notwithſtanding this keen ſenſe of the ſtings of guilt, and the horrors of living a declared enemy to man, and a rebel againſt God, he ſtill denied or evaded the confeſſion of the fact for which he is convicted, ſaying, he did not ſhoot at the man who took him, but at his horſe; when in fact both *he* and *Brown* were on foot. And with the utmoſt inconſiſtency ſaid, he would not communicate, becauſe he could not forgive this witneſs. I ſent for him to the cloſet, to converſe with and ſet him right in this and other points of preparation, he utterly refuſed to converſe with me; he was anſwered with a patient expoſtulation in the chapel, ſhewing him it was his own intereſt more than mine to be well directed and adviſed in private rather than in public; he only anſwered with ſneers and ridicule, ſaying he would go to *no confeſſion box*. What perverted him into this unaccountable temper I can't ſay for he had before this freely converſed with me, between ourſelves. I waited and deferred the adminiſtration ſeveral days in hopes of his compliance and coming to a better diſpoſition, daily aſſiſting him with proper prayers and inſtructions.

In this interval a neighbour went to chapel with me, and obſerving Lewis's incident and obſtinate behaviour, took the cha-

ritable freedom to reaſon with him after prayers, that his duty and intereſt ſhould prevail with him to comply with thoſe rules and directions given him for his own benefit, and in which the ordinary could have no private end or advantage. He anſwered, Whether I am fit or no, what is that to him? *d——n him, I ſhall lick him before I have done with him. if he don't give me the ſacrament.* This paſſed in a little room in the way going down from the chapel. About eight or nine minutes after this, he heard him utter the ſame words as he went into the cells, dwelling on the thought and delighting in it! *d. n him, I ſhall lick him if he don't give it me.* Impious ſtupidity and abſurdity! In this extraordinary converſation he was asked farther, are not you thankful to Providence for preventing your murdering Mr. Brown when you fired at him? He ſaid with a curſe. *it would give him no concern if he had killed him,* for the man had no buſineſs with him; and he fired in his own defence.

In a word, his behaviour and converſation was ſuch as ſhocked every one who were witneſſes of it. This good man, who is far from being rigid in his notions, declared, he concluded him to be a *reprobate* or a *madman*, and in either caſe totally unfit for the ſacrament; all which, and more, he is ready to teſtify, and attended at Guildhall on a proper day for that purpoſe.

Another day, juſtifying his paſt courſes, he ſtrutted through the chapel laughing and talking aloud, he ſaid, in the hearing of the priſoners, *I only robbed the rich to give to the poor.* A common excuſe for all thiefts and robberies.

While I was one day reading a leſſon choſen for their ſupport and conſolation, Lewis, inſtead of making a good uſe of it, was buſy in turning over Mr. Rice's bible, for he uſed none himſelf in the chapel, to point out a ſuppoſed contradiction between St. Matt. 27. 44 and St. Luke 23 39 —— 42. A ſtale exploded objection that has been often anſwered. This he propoſed aloud, in the hearing of all the poor ignorant priſoners, and would have entered into the diſpute in the midſt of the ſervice. I deſired his patience till that ſhould be ended. He was then told that he as a ſcholar ſhould conſider, that two hiſtorians writing of the ſame tranſaction, might mention it in different views and with

different

different circumſtances without directly contradicting each other, the one inſerting what the other omitted; the one particular, the other general, in his narrative or mode of expreſſion; that he would do better to propoſe theſe difficulties at proper times and places, and he would have ſatisfaction given him: that it would better become him to reflect at preſent on his own inconſiſtencies and contradictions in words and actions, in calling himſelf a chriſtian and not believing or behaving as a chriſtian; and if he diſbelieved the bible, how could he hope to be ſaved by the words of it? Is there any contradiction about the plain and neceſſary duties of *repentance* and *faith?* repeating ſome texts to that purpoſe. He laughed aloud, and ſaid, in the priſoner's hearing, *I put him in mind of a French prieſt whom he had taken priſoner at ſea, who told the ſhip's crew, they were all damned, if they did not believe all he told them.* He added, by way of provocation and contempt, before the priſoners, *that I was drunk when I went to viſit him in New-Priſon*; though he owned before, by way of apology for his monſtrous rudeneſs at that viſit, that he himſelf was in liquor. It is ſcarce worth mentioning this inconſiſtent ſlander which confutes itſelf, as it was but twelve at noon when I viſited him: and all who know me can teſtify this vice to be abhorrent from my character.

Lewis was farther reminded at preſent, that I have had ſeveral young men of education and ſpirit in his ſad caſe, who, inſtead of behaving like him, uſed to read to their ignorant fellow-convicts, and help to prepare them: that ſuch employment would be more to *his* benefit and *theirs*; that however, inſtead of being angry, I truly pitied him. He ſwore he pitied himſelf too, who muſt die at twenty-three years of age. He was anſwered, if you live only to increaſe your guilt, it is better to die. He then bid me not to expoſe him or his family; he was told, he had expoſed himſelf much worſe than I could or would; his life and character, and his trials on record, had done that effectually.

On Sunday, May 1, when Mr. Rice and Chippindale, having given all the ſatisfaction I required that they were prepared, were admitted to the holy communion, Lewis would have forced himſelf upon me to be adminiſtered to; and becauſe I could not

admit

admit him with a good conſcience, reviled me, and ſaid, he would not be examined by a *Jacobite parſon*, &c. He added unlucky enough, *I am a true chriſtian, as much as you're a ſcoundrel.* The ſarcaſm here rebounded, and fell as it ought.

The ſame morning, as I am aſſured by two gentlemen preſent in the chapel, while I was in the cloſet between prayers and ſermon, Lewis was boaſting of his heroic ſpirit and genius for the highway, ſwearing he did not value his life, but to be diſappointed; for it was a d——d well-laid ſcheme. It would have got us a 1000l. in a week. And in leſs than an hour after this, he would have forced himſelf to the Lord's table, as before.

In ſuch a diſpoſition, the reader will eaſily believe this outrageous criminal capable of any perfidious and ungrateful miſrepreſentation againſt his miniſter, if he could find others capable of attending to him, and being impoſed on by him, ſo far as to aid and abett him.

Such in truth was his conduct and ſtratagem the two laſt days he had to live, and till within an hour or two of his death.

To confirm this with regard to him, and to palliate and excuſe it with regard to myſelf, need I repeat a trick which I was well-informed he played off againſt his own aged father, afflicted and depreſſed as he muſt be in himſelf, kind, forbearing and compaſſionate to this *enfant perdue*. When his father viſited him this laſt time in Newgate, he put twelve guineas into his hand, for a preſent ſupply; the lad dextrouſly ſlipt one into the cuff of his ſleeve, and then opening his hand to his father, ſhewed him *eleven*, ſaying, you have given me but ſo many; his father put his hand in his pocket, took out another guinea and gave to this ingenious youth: of which Paul quickly after boaſted, ſaying, I have ſtung the old F—— out of another guinea. It is confidently aſſerted, he made as free with his father's character when at liberty telling him, he only preached the money out of his people's pockets. But what was this to the virulent malice of threatening the ordinary on the eve of his laſt day, as he did in the hearing of a worthy clergyman, who is able and willing to atteſt it; that he Lewis *would take care he never ſhould attend another criminal.* If this be in the power of an obſtinate profligate highwayman, or

any

ny who take part with him, as doubtleſs it may be by *violence* or *ſtratagem*, the ordinary for the time being ſhould hold himſelf very eaſy and degage in his ſituation, unleſs he be armed with the patience and reſolution of a martyr to a better cauſe than P. L's.

Need I repeat his behaviour in the cells, where inſtead of reading, meditation and prayer, he was often heard to ſing looſe ſongs aloud, ſo as to divert his fellow-convicts, and then call out and aſk them, *how they liked it?* Againſt ſuch perverſe and daring behaviour as this he was early and earneſtly cautioned ſoon after his conviction *not to affect the character of an hero.* But in a place where the maxim is, the *wickedeſt* is the *beſt fellow*, no wonder he could not reſiſt this ſtrong temptation to his vain pride; eſpecially while this hero and favourite of the goal had his ears daily tickled with the title of captain; and when he appealed againſt his miniſter, for his good behaviour, to thoſe who took care of him and perfectly knew the contrary, he was ſoothed and boſtered up by thoſe men of veracity and candour, with *Captain, you have always behaved like a gentleman, as you are.* This was in the hearing of ſeveral witneſſes, in order to condemn the ordinary's conduct towards him, as if rigid, unreaſonable, and unjuſtifiable.

Hannah Dagoe, widow, otherwiſe wife of William Connor, was indicted, together with one Matthews not taken, for ſtealing three copper ſaucepans, a copper tea-kettle, an iron ſtove-grate, an iron fender, a gridiorn, four harrateen bed curtains, a feather-bed, three blankets, two quilts, one teaſter, ſix matted chairs, a wainſcot table, ſeven pictures framed and glazed, three ſilver teaſpoons, one pair of bellows, one hair turnk, one table cloth, one ſilk and worſted gown, three linen aprons, one lawn apron, two laced caps, two linen caps, two cambric hoods, one cambric handkerchief, one ſtuff gown, one callimanco petticoat, one cloth cloak, two linen ſhifts, one pair of cotton gloves, one velvet bonnet, and other goods, in the whole to the amount of 11l. 4s. the property of Eleanor Huſſey, in the dwelling-houſe of Suſannah Rowland, widow, March 17.

This

This convict, a luſty ſtrong bold ſpirited woman, about years of age, took her name from a Spaniſh ſeaman, one Die or Dago, who happening to be her fellow-priſoner married in White-chapel goal, wherein ſhe was confined for debt. A be was gone abroad, or dead, ſhe is ſaid to have taken up w William Connor, who was the keeper of that priſon. I quarrel which ſhe fell into there, ſhe ſtabbed a perſon; for whi being tried and convicted, ſhe was fined and ſent to Newgate ſix months; during which time ſhe again took an opportunity ſtab a young man, one Ralph Wayne, for no perſonal provo tion but the reſentment ſhe conceived againſt him for turn evidence againſt his two accomplices Morgan and Dupuy.

At the Poultry-Counter ſhe was known to have been a priſo ſeveral times.

She is ſaid to have been a native of Ireland, but being brou over very young, had her education and principles, ſuch as th were, here in London. She told me, ſhe had wrought and de in the millinary way in the neighbourhood of Spital-fields agre able to what her proſecutrix ſaid of her, that ſhe had done pl work for her in her huſband's time. However it is but too p bable ſhe uſed a much worſe kind of induſtry, in which, thou long practiſed, this fact for which ſhe was convicted ſeems to a maſter piece.

On the 17th of March, the tutelar ſaint's day of her countr a day by ſome devoted to mirth and feſtevity, by others abu to riot and exceſs, ſhe paid a viſit to Eleanor Huſſey her proſecutri a little before noon. This was the third viſit made on this pl She was enabled to make a creditable appearance, by the ſpo of Mrs. Ingram, ano her perſon whom ſhe had lately robbed defrauded of cloathes and goods. This favoured her ſcheme pretending to have got into ſome good circumſtances by the dea of a friend; and to take this old acquaintance, being a wido to live with her freely on her bounty. She began with takin her out in a coach with another neighbour, Mary Wayland, order to ſpend the day merrily, and ſhew her where ſhe liv They dined and drank together at the Nag's head in Leather-l till between four and five in the afternoon, when Dagoe and h

pretend

retended maid, Ann Matthews, left them on ſome plauſible retence, perhaps to get ready an apartment for this new gueſt; ſtead of which ſhe went back to Mrs. Huſſey's lodgings, at the ouſe of Mrs. Rowland's in Phœnix ſtreet, Spital-Fields; when y her ſhewy dreſs and fair ſpeeches, pretending ſhe would keep nd maintain Mrs. Huſſey in her own tenement, ſhe got admit-nce into the apartment, and ſtript it of the goods and apparel entioned in the indictment, leaving her nothing but a bare edſtead which ſhe could not unſcrew. Having conveyed theſe way, ſhe returned to Mrs. Huſſey about nine in the evening, ut quickly left her again, under pretence of getting a coach to end her home, and returned ... more. Here the poor woman ayed in pledge for the reckoning till next morning, when ſhe old her ring to pay her way; and getting home, found her odgings ſtript. What diſtreſs and anguiſh muſt ſhe have felt! ct a bed to lie on, not one neceſſary left her! what a cruel emorſeleſs theft was this? ſhe had no hopes of remedy till a few f her goods caſually ſeen hanging out at Mr. Meer's, a broker's hop in Houndſditch, were the means of diſcovering and reſtoring he bulk of them to the right owner, and bringing the thief to uſtice. She was convicted on the cleareſt evidence of the ſeveral erſons now mentioned, inſomuch that ſhe could ſay nothing in her defence but faintly to deny her taking the goods, and ſubmit o the mercy of the court.

The next morning after her conviction, being viſited and called upon to attend at chapel, ſhe made an excuſe that ſhe had no clean cloaths. However ſhe was diſſuaded by another convict of a former ſeſſions, Eſther Lyon, from perſiſting in that excuſe, and was prevailed upon to come with her to prayers and inſtruction. In the courſe of which ſhe ſeemed affected with a deep ſenſe of her paſt ſinful courſe, acknowledged ſhe had been *very wicked*, and that the words ſpoken pierced to her heart. But we could never gain more from her than theſe general acknowledgments, and that ſhe would make her peace with God in the beſt manner ſhe could, but would never be prevailed on to be a communicant; anſwering all the general inſtructions and perſuaſives which ſhe had in common with the reſt, and all the

particular applications to herſelf, with a flat denial and deſire t
be excuſed. We left her to her own way, in which ſhe went o
to the laſt. She was attentive and quiet in the ſervice, thoug
ſhe ſeldom read or made any reſponſes.

Thus it is, that while ſome are preſumptuous and would i
trude themſelves on this ſacred ordinance unprepared, others a
too diffident of being ever prepared, and even of the divi
mercy, and ſo excommunicate themſelves from all the benefits
it, by neglecting and evading an expreſs command of their dyi
Saviour. The happy mean between preſumption and deſpair,
the deſirable temper which we recommend to ſinners and crimina
from firſt to laſt, to be prayed for, aimed at, and attained
*There is mercy with thee, therefore ſhalt thou be feared. Come un
me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give yo
reſt.*

*On the morning of execution when I went to viſit at 40 minut
paſt ſix, the priſoners, I was told, were not yet ready; Lewis wa
juſt changing his linen, which a few minutes before was brought
him, or elſe he would have been ready; the cell doors being open,
neighbour, Mr. P——r——y, who went in with me, hear
him call down to us and ſay,* he would come directly. *While
walked and waited in the Preſs-yard, expecting the priſoners ever
minute, another viſitor came in a little before ſeven, paſſed me, a
if unregarded, and went up to the cells. The priſoners were ſaid t
be then ready to come down, all, except Chippindale, or Clippendale,
whom they intended not to bring till I called and prevailed on him t
come; but they did not yet come: I waited for them about thre
quarters of an hour in the whole. About* 10 *or* 15 *minutes after
the ſaid viſitor who muſt be nameleſs went in, he returned down
from the cell without any priſoner after him, and deſiring to ſpea
with me, I went aſide with him; he ſaid,* Mr. Lewis hopes you
won't take it ill, but he don't chuſe to come to chapel leſt he be
diſcompoſed, but deſires to ſpend the remainder of his time in his
cell; *he was anſwered,* they might do as they pleaſed. *With
this anſwer his viſitor returned to the cell to Lewis. Every one can
ſee this was contrary to Lewis's declaration to me before this viſitor
went*

went up to him, let the inference be what it may. While I ſtill waited for the priſoners, a third clergyman came in, Mr. M-x-ll, whom I met at the gate as I looked out for two ſerious and good neighbours expected to come and join with us. I told him whom I looked for, that they were not yet come, and hoped he would join with us in communion. He anſwered with all my heart. *I added and not encourage any ſchiſm.* No, *ſaid he; but I want to ſpeak a word or two to Lewis. I offered to wait on him; he ſeemed to agree, but on ſecond thoughts deſired I would not; I then recommended to him to promote order and peace; he promiſed me he would do ſo. I hoped it, from his good character, and being educated on the ſame foundation with the other preceding viſitor, preſumed in my thoughts that connection and influence might prevail. After he went up to the cells, the other priſoners quickly came down and went up to chapel. While I converſed with Mr. Rice and the other convict, Dagoe, Mr. M-x-ll came up to me and ſaid,* Lewis will not come, becauſe, " excuſe the expreſſion," he ſays, there is ſomething in you diſagreeable to him; *I anſwered him,* that don't ſurprize me; in my ſituation I muſt expect that and more. *On which occaſion, this diſtich of a very worthy man, whom in my youth I have had the honour to converſe with, occured to me, with very little variation:*

Hated by knaves, and knaves to hate;
Be this my motto, and my fate.

Soon after prayers were begun, Lewis was conducted up in a flurry to the chapel, and come and kneeled down oppoſite to me at the table, while I was repeating this petition of the litany: From all ſedition, privy conſpiracy and rebellion; from all falſe doctrine, hereſy and ſchiſm; from hardneſs of heart and contempt of thy word and commandment, good Lord, deliver us. *The ſuffrage or reſponſe he repeated aloud; and it is hoped the force and propriety of this petition, as applied to him, at that inſtant reached his heart. He kept up his attention and fervency in making his reſponſes through the litany, till we came to this part of that admirable prayer for ſupport under afflictions;* and graciouſly hear us, that thoſe evils

which the craft and ſubtility of the devil or man worketh againſt us, be brought to nought; and by the providence of thy goodneſs they may be diſperſed; that we thy ſervants being hurt by no perſecutions, *it was added*, (no kind of ſufferings.) *At theſe words he dropt on his ſide by the table, and as he fell he cried out, in a tragic ſtrain, O my family! We took him up, ſet him on a ſeat, got him wine, water, and a ſmelling bottle to recover him; which being done, he kneeled down in the ſame place again. Soon after he himſelf ſpied lying by him on the floor, a new claſp penknife, which ſeemed to have dropt from him when he fell. He held it up in his hand with a look and geſture, to expreſs his thankful aſtoniſhment for being prevented making the uſe of it, which, he would be underſtood, to have intended it for. Mr. M who kneeled near him, took it out of his hand.*

He then explained to us, that Mr. A-k--n, by going into the cell to him where he was left alone by his viſitor, had prevented him from putting it to the horrid uſe which he had kept it for in his pillow, ever ſince he was a priſoner; he ſhewed us the boſom of his ſhirt torn down for the purpoſe, and ſaid, that when ſearched he dropt it into his ſhoe, whence it flew out by his fall in the chapel. He alſo took a paper out of his pocket, wherein he had tranſcribed ſome verſes of the bible, wickedly wreſted, and abſurdly perverted to juſtify this dire fact of ſuicide; it was the account of Saul *and his* amour-bearer's death ſelf-inflicted, 1 *Sam.* 31. 4. 5. *Why did he not quote the examples of Ahitophel and Judas too? worthy maſters and patterns of ſuch a deſciple! worthy object of ſuch! A panegyriſt as he happily left behind him, by whom he is celebrated in the ſaid Gazetteer of May* 5. *for his* clear *and* ſenſible *diſcernment concerning the ſcriptures, of which this is a freſh proof. After this, who will vouch for this panegyriſt having a* juſt ſenſe *of the* chriſtian religion, *or a* clear *and* ſenſible *diſcerning in the ſacred writings? A veil ſhould have been drawn over this part of Lewis's behaviour, as has been over ſeveral others of himſelf and viſitors for* 2 *or* 3 *days paſt, leaving them to their own reflexions and ſelf conviction, had not a very* partial account *of* this tranſaction been publiſhed *in the Gazetteer aforeſaid, the very day after his execution; which demanded a fair and circumſtantial account of that affair as a ſpeci-*

men,

en, a very ſmall ſpecimen, of that veracity, candour, and de-
ncy, with which the ordinary was treated in other inſtances, now
wholly ſuppreſſed and ſacrificed to the love of peace.

As Lewis now ſeemed to return to his duty and to put on the
nitent, he was queſtioned about his diſpoſition and preparedneſs to
eceive the holy ſacrament; as whether he earneſtly deſired to renew
he promiſe and vow made in baptiſm, and to renounce all his paſt
ranſgreſſions of it in thought, word and deed? whether he re-
ented of all his ſins, errors and crimes? together with the other
equiſite points of ſelf examination. To which he with the other
nvicts, to whom theſe queſtions were likewiſe directed, made
roper anſwers in general. He was then queſtioned in particular,
whether he had any accomplices? which he could not deny. Whether
e did not think it his duty to diſcover and name them for the public
ood, and his own private peace and conſcience, that they might be
rought to repentance, or to juſtice? To this he anſwered, that he
ad wrote and ſent to them all, to quit their wicked courſes Bu:
s to any thing more, they had all ſworn to each other, by kneeling
n the Bible, with the moſt dreadful imprecations on him who ſhould
ver betray his fellows. That he had been now three years on the
ighway, and that the had never hurt any one; denied that he was
he perſon that ſhot the coachman through the hat; declared he had
een ever true to his accomplices, and that the man who is falſe after
ſuch an oath and to ſuch a league, merits damnation!

Preſumptuous abuſe, moſt abſurd perverſion of the Bible! to kneel
pon it and ſwear to live in open violation of all its laws, and in
defiance of all its judgments! and imagine this laid any obligation on
the conſcience: or bound to any thing but a moſt profound humiliation
and hearty repentance Theſe were ſome of the wounds *and* bruiſes
and putrifying ſores *he was ſo tender of opening to his proper paſtor;*
and to conceal which he put himſelf into other hands, who perhaps
daubed him over, *inſtead of pouring in* oil *or* wine, *or* mollifying
them with precious ointment. *What could be done now? the time*
preſſed; the ſword of juſtice waited with impatience; he had his
choſen teacher at his elbow he had miſpent and loſt his late and
moſt precious moments, in meditating the moſt dire and horrid
deſigns, leading to eternal miſery. There was no time now to combat

and

and confute those capital errors of learning suicide, and the dese
tion and abuse of God's holy word, from the book itself. We
now be content with general expressions of repentance for all tha
past, and earnest prayers for his pardon. By these and such m
he was admitted to the holy sacrament; after which I received h
to my arms, saying, This my son, was dead and is alive aga
He seemed to behave himself with compliance, and an humble
thankful submission. I must acknowledge the first unexpected sight
him coming into the chapel gave me great joy. His open and fre
behaviour, with other marks of conversion, and deliverance fro
great a destruction, as he was ready to fall into, increased that
He now said he would answer me any question; and lamented
ill terms he had been upon with me, hitherto. It was now too l
to think of putting any more questions to him. He grew sick, and
he went down stairs was so overcome that he stopt, till his stoma
was eased.

He had before this dropt some tender expressions about his fami
a wife and one or two children, which gave him great anxiety.

By the account I had from a neighbour who stood near him in t
press yard while his irons were knicked off, his hands tied, and t
halter put, he recovered his spirits, and again acted the hero befo
the spectators. Seeing a person he knew, at hand, he said to hi
Go over the way and borrow me a cap, for as I intended
destroy myself, I have made no preparation of that kind. H
asked another, Is my hearse ready? *It is: Then so am I*
was observed he neither prayed for himself, nor desired the praye
of any one, but looked around with a stern fierceness, as if he coul
destroy all that were present. He was put into the same cart wit
H. Dagoe; and it was said by those who saw them in the way
that their behaviour was equally unconcerned and hardy, and tha
by the air and manner of Lewis, he still affected the M'Heath.

Mr. Rice's behaviour this morning was placid and composed
pious and resigned, he answered the particular questions put to hi
with an open freedom. Whether a protection was really offere
him, on the terms of conforming to their religion at Cambray? H
answered, that it really was so at first; but that their zeal relaxe
in proportion to the pressing and repeated demands of our court.
hav

ever him given up; and alſo on their diſcovering he was not ſo rich as they expected. Whether he had any accomplice? This he ſtill denied. To what value his forgeries amounted? To which he anſwered as before, to about 4500l.

I had ſeen him late the preceding evening. His wife was reading to him Taylor's holy living and dying. He told me, he had a lively hope, and was endeavouring to confirm himſelf in it. His wife took her leave of him the ſame night, and was prudently ſent out of town early next morning. When we parted, after divine ſervice in the chapel, he took a moſt tender farewell, thanked me for all good offices with a parting look which he ſpoke pity and prayer for him to the laſt. He had applied to have a coach to the place of execution, which, when it could not be granted, he expreſſed great indifference about it. He was decently habited in a ſuit of mourning, and had a cart to himſelf; in which a ſteady friend, at his own earneſt requeſt, accompanied him, who converſed with and aſſiſted him in the way.

Being brought to the place of execution ſoon after ten, Rice and Lewis were eaſily tied up; but Dagoe behaved with a reſolute firmneſs in her looks, and a more than maſculine boldneſs in her manner; ſhe diſpoſed of her capuchin and ſome other little matters to ſome that ſtood near her; and twice ſhe got looſe the cord which tied her hands, and flung it from her with reſentment. At laſt the executioner tied them a third time with his garter. It is ſaid, ſhe gave him a puſh at that time, ſo as nearly to overſet him.

Being thus fixed and prepared, they were prayed for as uſual near half an hour, the people at their requeſt joining with them. There was a vaſt multitude of ſpectators, who in general behaved ſeriouſly.

At a proper pauſe in prayer, being each aſked if they had any thing to ſay to the ſpectators by way of warning, Lewis ſpoke to this effect: "This dreadful ſight will not, I believe, invite any of you to come here by following my example, but rather to be warned by me. I am but twenty-three years of age, a clergyman's ſon, bred up among gentlemen. This wounds me the deeper; for to whom much is given, of him the more is required. My friends, I intreat you all, avoid ſuch offences as may bring you here, for

every

every cauſe, and eſpecially for the ſake of your family. Let
memory of my evil actions die with me, and do not reflect on
aged father. Hitherto I have been a diſgrace to all who kn
me. Were I to begin life again, I ſhould live an honour
ſociety.

He ſtill denied that he intended to kill the proſecutor, b
only ſhot at his horſe: (which has been remarked on before)
confeſſed his life was juſtly forfeited to the laws of his country.

*Hannah Dagoe, being aſked, ſtill denied ſhe was guilty of the fa
ſhe died for, but owned ſhe had often before deſerved to be brou
here. Being again warned not to perſiſt in a denial of that fa
ſhe owned ſhe was concerned in it, but ſaid no more.*

*Mr. Rice was ſilent except in prayer, wherein he was fervo
They were all recommended to the divine mercy and protection wi
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